

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Previously Presented) A plastic article comprising:

at least one of an ESD layer or EMI-shielding layer having a polymer matrix and bundle drawn stainless steel fibers wherein said bundle drawn stainless steel fibers have an equivalent diameter being more than  $0.5\mu\text{m}$ , said equivalent diameter being less than  $100\mu\text{m}$ , said bundle drawn stainless steel fibers having a composition comprising iron and the following components expressed in percent by weight :

$$\text{C} \leq 0.05 \%,$$

$$\text{Mn} \leq 5\%,$$

$$\text{Si} \leq 2 \%,$$

$$8 \leq \text{Ni} \leq 12 \%,$$

$$15 \% \leq \text{Cr} \leq 20 \%,$$

$$\text{Mo} \leq 3 \%,$$

$$\text{Cu} \leq 4 \%,$$

$$\text{N} \leq 0.05 \%,$$

$$\text{S} \leq 0.03 \%,$$

$$\text{P} \leq 0.05 \%;$$

wherein said composition satisfies the following relationship:

$$\text{MI} = 551 - 462 \times (\text{C} \% + \text{N} \%) - 9.2 \times \text{Si} \% - 20 \times \text{Mn} \% - 13.7 \times$$

$$\text{Cr} \% - 29 \times (\text{Ni} \% + \text{Cu} \%) - 18.5 \times \text{Mo} \%, \text{ said MI} \leq -60.$$

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented) A plastic article according to claim 1, wherein the volume of said bundle drawn stainless steel fibers is more than or equal to 0.1% volume of said plastic article.

5. (Previously Presented) A plastic article according to claim 1, wherein the volume of said bundle drawn stainless steel fibers is less than or equal to 5 vol% of said plastic article.

6. (Previously Presented) A plastic article according to claim 5, wherein the volume of said bundle drawn stainless steel fibers is less than or equal to 2.5 vol% of said plastic article.

7. (Previously Presented) A plastic article according to claim 6, wherein the volume of said bundle drawn stainless steel fibers is less than or equal to 1.5 vol% of said plastic article.

8. (Previously Presented) A plastic article according to claim 7, wherein the volume of said bundle drawn stainless steel fibers is less than or equal to 1 vol% of said plastic article.

9. (Original) A plastic article according to claim 1, wherein said plastic article has a thickness T, said T being less than or equal to 5 mm.

10. (Original) A plastic article according to claim 9, wherein T is less than or equal to 3 mm.

11. (Original) A plastic article according to claim 10, wherein T is less than or equal to 1 mm.

12. (Original) A plastic article according to claim 1, wherein said polymer matrix is a thermo-set polymer.

13. (Original) A plastic article according to claim 1, wherein said polymer matrix is a thermoplastic polymer.

14. (Previously Presented) A plastic article according to claim 1, wherein said polymer matrix is selected from polyethylene (PE), polypropylene (PP), polystyrene (PS), polyethylene terephthalate (PET), polyethylene naphthalate (PEN), polybutene terephthalate (PBT) polyvinylchloride (PVC), polyamide (PA), polyester (PES), polyimide (PI),

polycarbonate (PC), styrene acrylonitril (SAN), acrylonitril-butadiene-styrene (ABS), thermoplastic polyurethane (TPU), thermoplastic polyolefin (TPO), thermoplastic copolyetherester or a copolymer or a mixture thereof.

15. (Original) A plastic article according to claim 1, wherein said plastic article has a shielding effectiveness of more than 5 dB.

16. (Original) A plastic article according to claim 1, wherein said plastic article has a shielding effectiveness of more than 20 dB.

17. (Original) A plastic article according to claim 1, wherein said plastic article has a shielding effectiveness of more than 30 dB.

18. (Original) A plastic article according to claim 7, wherein said plastic article has a shielding effectiveness of more than 5 dB.

19. (Original) A plastic article according to claim 7, wherein said plastic article has a shielding effectiveness of more than 20 dB.

20. (Original) A plastic article according to claim 7, wherein said plastic article has a shielding effectiveness of more than 30 dB.

21. (Original) A plastic article according to claim 10, wherein said plastic article has a shielding effectiveness of more than 5 dB.

22. (Original) A plastic article according to claim 10, wherein said plastic article has a shielding effectiveness of more than 20 dB.

23. (Original) A plastic article according to claim 10, wherein said plastic article has a shielding effectiveness of more than 30 dB.

24. (Previously Presented) A plastic article according to claim 1, said bundle drawn stainless steel fibers having a fracture strength, said fracture strength having a standard deviation of less than 180MPa.

25. (Previously Presented) A plastic article according to claim 1, said bundle drawn stainless steel fibers having a strain at fracture, said strain at fracture having a standard deviation of less than 0.15%.

26. (Previously Presented) A plastic article according to claim 24, said fracture strength being more than 2000MPa.

27. (Original) A plastic article according to claim 25, said strain at fracture being more than 1%.

28. (Previously Presented) A plastic article according to claim 1, whereby the diffusion of the individual elements of a matrix material, used on said stainless steel wires during said bundled drawing, is limited to less than 1 at % at a depth of 100 nm below the surface of said bundle drawn stainless steel fibers.

29. (Original) A plastic article according to claim 28, whereby said matrix material comprises a metal or a metal alloy.

30. (Original) A plastic article according to claim 29, whereby said metal or metal alloy comprises copper, iron or a copper or iron alloy.

31. (Previously Presented) A thread comprising an impregnating resin and bundle drawn stainless steel fibers wherein said bundle drawn stainless steel fibers have an equivalent diameter being more than 0.5 $\mu$ m, said equivalent diameter being less than 100 $\mu$ m, said bundle drawn stainless steel fibers having a composition comprising iron and the following components expressed in percent by weight:

Mn  $\leq$  5%,

Si  $\leq$  2 %,

8  $\leq$  Ni  $\leq$  12 %,

15 %  $\leq$  Cr  $\leq$  20 %,

Mo  $\leq$  3 %,

Cu  $\leq$  4 %,

N  $\leq$  0.05 %,

$S \leq 0.03 \%$ ,

$P \leq 0.05 \%$ ;

wherein said composition satisfies the following relationship:

$MI = 551 - 462 \times (C \% + N \%) - 9.2 \times Si \% - 20 \times Mn \% - 13.7 \times$

$Cr \% - 29 \times (Ni \% + Cu \%) - 18.5 \times Mo \%$ , said  $MI \leq -60$ .

32. (Cancelled)

33. (Cancelled)

34. (Previously Presented) A thread according to claim 31, wherein said impregnating resin provides between 1 %vol and 99 %vol of said thread.

35. (Original) A thread according to claim 31, wherein said impregnating resin is polyvinylalcohol (PVA), polyethylene (PE), polypropylene (PP), polystyrene (PS), polyvinylchloride (PVC), polyester (PES), polyacrylate, polymethacrylate or a copolymer of these polymers.

36. (Previously Presented) A grain comprising an impregnating resin and bundle drawn stainless steel fibers wherein said bundle drawn stainless steel fibers have an equivalent diameter being more than  $0.5\mu m$ , said equivalent diameter being less than  $100\mu m$ , said bundle drawn stainless steel fibers having a composition comprising iron and the following components expressed in percent by weight:

$C \leq 0.05 \%$ ,

$Mn \leq 5\%$ ,

$Si \leq 2 \%$ ,

$8 \leq Ni \leq 12 \%$ ,

$15 \% \leq Cr \leq 20 \%$ ,

$Mo \leq 3 \%$ ,

$Cu \leq 4 \%$ ,

$N \leq 0.05 \%$ ,

$S \leq 0.03 \%$ ,

$P \leq 0.05 \%$ ;

wherein said composition satisfies the following relationship:

$$MI = 551 - 462 \times (C \% + N \%) - 9.2 \times Si \% - 20 \times Mn \% - 13.7 \times \\ Cr \% - 29 \times (Ni \% + Cu \%) - 18.5 \times Mo \%, \text{ said } MI \leq -60.$$

37. (Cancelled)

38. (Cancelled)

39. (Previously Presented) A grain according to claim 36, wherein said impregnating resin provides between 1 %vol and 99 %vol of said grain.

40. (Original) A grain according to claim 36, wherein said grain having a length ranging between 0.5 mm and 12 mm.

41. (Original) A grain according to claim 36, wherein said grain having a length ranging between 3 mm and 6 mm.

42. (Original) A grain according to claim 36, wherein said impregnating resin is polyvinylalcohol (PVA), polyethylene (PE), polypropylene (PP), polystyrene (PS), polyvinylchloride (PVC), polyester (PES), polyacrylate, polymethacrylate or a copolymer of these polymers.

43. (Currently Amended) A plastic article according to claim 1, wherein said bundle drawn stainless steel ~~fiber has~~ fibers have undergone a reduction with a deformation  $\epsilon$  of at least 4.5.

44. (Currently Amended) A plastic article according to claim 43, wherein said bundle drawn stainless steel ~~fiber has~~ fibers have undergone a reduction with a deformation  $\epsilon$  of at least 4.8.

45. (Currently Amended) A plastic article according to claim 43, wherein said bundle drawn stainless ~~fiber has~~ fibers have undergone a reduction with a deformation  $\epsilon$  of at least 5.2.

46. (Canceled)
47. (Previously Presented) A plastic article according to claim 1, said MI = -95.
48. (Previously Presented) A plastic article according to claim 1, said MI = -100.
49. (Previously Presented) A plastic article according to claim 1, wherein said MI is a value that permits a reduction with a deformation of at least 4.5.
50. (Previously Presented) An ESD layer or EMI-shielding layer, comprising the thread of claim 31.
51. (Previously Presented) An ESD layer or EMI-shielding layer, comprising the grain of claim 36.
52. (New) A plastic article according to claim 1, wherein said equivalent diameter ranges between 0.5 $\mu$ m and 50 $\mu$ m.
53. (New) A plastic article according to claim 1, wherein said equivalent diameter falls within the range of 6 $\mu$ m to 15 $\mu$ m.
54. (New) A thread according to claim 31, wherein said equivalent diameter ranges between 0.5 $\mu$ m and 50 $\mu$ m.
55. (New) A thread according to claim 31, wherein said equivalent diameter falls within the range of 6 $\mu$ m to 15 $\mu$ m.
56. (New) A grain according to claim 36, wherein said equivalent diameter ranges between 0.5 $\mu$ m and 50 $\mu$ m.
57. (New) A grain according to claim 36, wherein said equivalent diameter falls within the range of 6 $\mu$ m to 15 $\mu$ m.
58. (New) A thread according to claim 31, wherein said bundle drawn stainless steel fibers have undergone a reduction with a deformation  $\epsilon$  of at least 4.5.

59. (New) A thread according to claim 31, wherein said bundle drawn stainless steel fibers have undergone a reduction with a deformation  $\epsilon$  of at least 4.8.

60. (New) A thread according to claim 31, wherein said bundle drawn stainless steel fibers have undergone a reduction with a deformation  $\epsilon$  of at least 5.2.

61. (New) A grain according to claim 36, wherein said bundle drawn stainless steel fibers have undergone a reduction with a deformation  $\epsilon$  of at least 4.5.

62. (New) A grain according to claim 36, wherein said bundle drawn stainless steel fibers have undergone a reduction with a deformation  $\epsilon$  of at least 4.8.

63. (New) A grain according to claim 36, wherein said bundle drawn stainless steel fibers have undergone a reduction with a deformation  $\epsilon$  of at least 5.2.

64. (New) A thread according to claim 31, wherein said MI = -100.

65. (New) A thread according to claim 31, wherein said MI is a value that permits a reduction with a deformation of at least 4.5.

66. (New) A grain according to claim 36, wherein said MI = -100.

67. (New) A grain according to claim 36, wherein said MI is a value that permits a reduction with a deformation of at least 4.5.